Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method for specifying measurement start times in a network Measurement Request Frame ~~(300)~~, comprising the steps of:

formatting the Measurement Request Frame ~~(300)~~ to have a Measurement Request Elements field ~~(305)~~ comprising at least one Measurement Request Element ~~(400,440)~~, said at least one Measurement Request Element ~~(400,440)~~ comprising at least one Measurement Request ~~(406,410)~~ for a given type ~~(405)~~ of network measurement; and

specifying ~~at least one of a first (304), second (408) and third (432) prioritized~~ an absolute Start Time~~, respectively,~~ in ~~a corresponding~~ at least one of the Measurement Request Frame, the Measurement Request Element~~Elements (440)~~, and the ~~at least one~~ Measurement Request, wherein the absolute Start Time is set to zero to indicate that the corresponding measurement is to be initiated after reception of the Measurement Request Frame ~~(406)~~.

2 - 6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of ~~for~~ setting a ~~said~~ Measurement Mode field ~~(404)~~ to a value that specifies how to interpret the absolute ~~applicable one of the first (304), second (408), and third (432)~~ Start Time for starting measurement of the element.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 78, wherein said setting step further comprises the step of using a three bit encoding ~~(407)~~ to represent a selected indicator.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

including in the at least one Measurement Request Element ~~(400,440)~~ a Measurement Mode field ~~(404)~~; and

~~step for~~ setting said Measurement Mode field ~~subfield (404)~~ to a value that specifies how to interpret the absolute ~~applicable one of the first, second, and third~~ Start Time for starting measurement of the element.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11~~12~~, wherein said setting step further comprises ~~the step of~~ using a three bit encoding ~~(407)~~ to represent a selected indicator.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) An apparatus that formats a Measurement Request Frame having an unambiguous measurement Start Time, comprising:

a measurement acquisition circuit ~~(103)~~ that formats the Measurement Request Frame ~~(300)~~ to have a Measurement Request Elements field ~~(305)~~ that comprises at least one Measurement Request Element ~~(400,440)~~ that comprises at least one Measurement Request ~~(406)~~ for a given type ~~(405)~~ of network measurement;

a TSF timer ~~(106)~~; and

a control processor ~~(105).~~ coupled to said measurement acquisition circuit ~~(103)~~ and said TSF timer ~~(106)~~ and configured to set an absolute ~~at least one of a first (304), second (408) and third (432)~~ Start Time ~~respectively~~ in at least one of the ~~corresponding~~ Measurement Request Frame ~~(300)~~, the Measurement Request ElementElements ~~(305)~~, and the ~~at least one~~ Measurement Request ~~(406)~~, wherein the absolute Start Time is set to zero to indicate that the corresponding measurement is to be initiated after reception of the Measurement Request Frame ~~said first (304), second (408) and third (432) Start Time set to a value of the TSF timer (106) to indicate in increasing priority order~~.

16 - 22. (canceled)

23. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein said absolute Start Time is based on a time synchronization function (TSF) timer value.

24. (new) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said absolute Start Time is based on a time synchronization function (TSF) timer value.